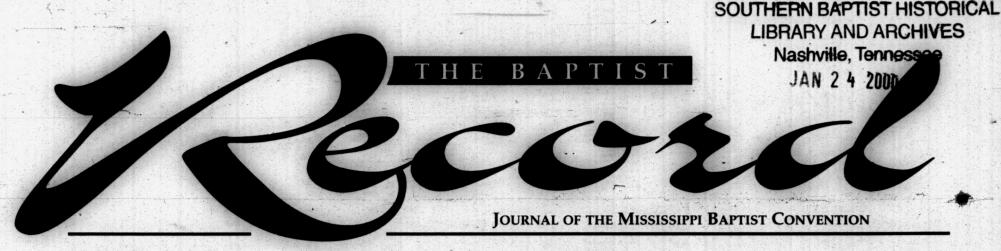
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Ministry making neighborhood impact

CHICAGO (BP) - When outsiders drive through Humboldt Park, the urban neighborhood that the Chicago Grace Place calls home, many see only the problems: drug trafficking, prostitution, and gangs. When Tammy Addington, Grace Place's director, looks at that same scene, she sees one face at a time — the single mother struggling to raise her children; the gang member crying out for attention; the hungry child

needing a hot meal.

That's how Grace Place is having an impact on this community-one life at a time. A few months ago, the ministry was a hot spot of sands of Christians from (Isaiah-6:8) (BP photo)

across the country converged on Chicago and its suburbs for SearchLight, an evangelistic thrust into the Windy City and the focal point of the Southern Baptist Convention's Strategic Focus Cities emphasis for Chicago.

More than 140 people made decisions to

become Christians over the weekend of the block party. Four student missionaries assisted Grace Place over the summer, and 16 mission teams from churches all over the nation helped renovate its building and conducted a four-week-day camp for children and teenagers.

Today, the scene is quieter. Addington and a small core of volunteers, mostly women, faithfully staff the three-story building at the corner of North Rockwell and West Hirsch so it's open to the community Tuesdays through Fridays. They stock a clothes closet and food pantry for the community. They operate a job-training room with the help of missionary Carla Still. Erasto Hernandez tackles the lion's share of the ongoing maintenance and renovation to keep the building in shape. Grace Place just began opening its doors on Mondays, and plans are in the works to open on Saturdays.

Grace Place is a community outreach ministry that one day, Addington hopes, will be a self-sustaining church. The min-istry's goal is to establish relationships with residents and develop ministries as they learn the community's needs, all in an effort to help them see the importance of a personal and maturing relationship with esus Christ. Addington's fiance, Randy Barajas, a self-employed graphic designer who became a Christian four years ago, prepares messages for the Sunday-morning worship service in lieu of a pastor. The heart of Grace Place is its weekday ministry and availability to the community, where more than half the adults don't have a high-school diploma and are out of work.

activity- the site of an evan-gelistic block party that URBAN PLUNGE — Fifty University of Mobile students heard God calling said. With some 1,500 chil-drew more than 400 people and responded as Isaiah did: "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom dren attending a public drew more than 400 people and responded as Isaiah did: "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom dren attending a public than 1 and 2 And who will go for us?' And I said. 'Here I am. Send me!'" grade school across the

"God's building a strong foundation here," Addington said. That foundation comprises the other Christians who diligently staff Grace Place's ministries and keep the building in sound shape. She has a strong bond with the volunteers at Grace

Place and wants to see them develop

Most of them are at Grace Place every Tuesday through Saturday, their preschool children in tow, to help out wherever they can and to nurture their spiritual lives through individual prayer and Bible study.

Those volunteers include Berlinda Laureano, a 29year-old who wrestles with the difficulties that many women in the so-called "sandwich generation" face. She's raising a 5-year-old daughter, Stephanie, and caring for a mother who is in remission from cancer.

Grace Place is in a community abounding with where "God's tremendously at work," Addington

URBAN PLUNGE — Fifty University of Mobile students heard God calling said. With some 1,500 chilstreet and another several hundred children at a near-

by preschool, Grace Place has great potential to connect children and their families

with the gospel, she said.

The neighborhood has "a number of believers who stand up for the Lord, including teachers and administrators. They work hard and work together in the

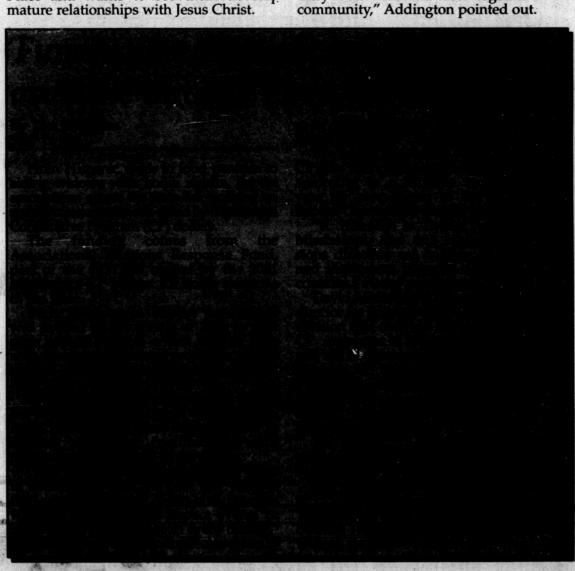
### WHAT'S IN THE RECORD



Just For the Record



Sunday School lessons



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# The distraction of crisis thinking

Thew! It now appears we dodged the Y2K bullet a second time. Remember Y2K? At the dawn of the new millennium last January, the Year 2000 computer glitch was supposed to shut down civilization as we knew it.

There were dire predictions — water systems could cease to flow, electricity would stop, and we were all doomed to spend a cold winter in the dark. Civil unrest was to rock the nation.

People stockpiled everything from ammunition to Spam. Some people saw Y2K as Mother Nature's final blow against

an ungrateful and exploitative human race. Other people believed it was the initiating event of the last days as laid out in Revelation.

You may have noticed by now that January 1, 2000, was not the end of the world. Power grids didn't crash. Hospitals didn't shut down. Aircraft didn't fall from the sky. Banks didn't run out of cash. Civil order did not collapse.

Some experts attribute the quiet passing of Y2K to the massive proactive effort in this country that poured \$100 billion into computer fixes and contingency planning. Other experts believe the problem was overblown from the start.

Then there were the folks who were not content to allow Y2K to exit with a whimper. Since there was no year zero, they explained, the first millennium actually began in the year one — making start of the second millennium in the year 1001 and the start of the third millennium on January 1, 2001.

Get ready for Y2K all over again, they predicted. Well, January 1, 2001, has now come and gone with a complete absence of bedlam and riots. The water still worked, electricity still flowed, and traffic signals didn't break down.

Apparently, no one in America even missed a single play of the New Years Day football games due to Son of Y2K. There will once again be a lot of excess ammo and canned meat on the open market in the next few months.

However, for the people who can't get

In Hebrews, Chapter 12, the Bible records two great

shakings of the people on earth-Verses 18-24 refer to the time

in the wilderness when God

came down on Mount Sinai to

give the Law to his chosen peo-

19th chapter of Exodus, where

God told Moses to gather the

when God came down in fire

upon it. The people trembled

greatly at the sound of his voice

referred to in Heb. 12:26b is still

tuture, and will include both

remove the shakable things so

that which can not be shaken

may remain (see verse 27). Then verses 28-29 speak of the immovable kingdom, mount

The description of this sec-

ond shake-up is graphically described in the book of

Sion, and the new Covenant.

The purpose for this is to

The "yet once more" shaking

as he gave them his laws.

heaven and earth.

This is also recorded in the

ple, Israel.

to them.



through life without a crisis of some type, there's always a new list of apocolyptic dates and signs to be compiled, courtesy of The Wall Street Journal and other sources:

• January 1, 2019 — If any of the the host of Y2K reprogramming contractors that sprang up to fix the problem took advantage of a widely-known "quick and dirty" technique last year instead of a full inspection and updating of every line of programming code, they only bought 20 years of time instead of permanently

repairing the Y2K problem.

• January 19, 2038 — For technical reasons too complicated to explain here, the increasingly-popular Unix operating system could experience its own Y2K-style meltdown on that day.

 At some point around the middle of this century, the system for assigning area codes and individual telephone numbers will completely run out of available area codes and numbers.

Meanwhile, the rest of us need to stop all these distractions of crisis thinking and get back to the serious business of winning Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

Everyone who willingly chooses to follow Jesus has the responsibility of sharing the Good News with lost people next door, down the block, across town, throughout our state, around our nation, and across our world.

Let's start the new year, century, and millennium by rededicating ourselves to the mission that has been put before us by our Lord.

Christians know that there here is no earthly force or future crisis that can stop

us in accomplishing that mission.
The One who literally spoke the world into existence has those things under con-

Based on an editorial originally published in the January 6, 2000, issue.

### **GUEST OPINION:**

# The great shake-up

By Mona Nolf, member Escatawpa Church, Escatawpa

people to Mount Sinai where he Rev. 6:12-17 concerns the shaking of the earth and the would come down and speak The whole mountain shook skies above it.

The shaking of heaven is referred to in Rev. 12:7-12 when Satan, whom Jesus called the prince of the powers of the air," will be cast out of heaven with all of his host onto the earth for a short period of time before his final destruction.

This time, according to Rev. 12:13-14, will last 3 1/2 years (or 42 months), the time we call the Great Tribulation.

It is also in the time frame of which Daniel 9:24 foretells, after the Antichrist has broken his seven-year treaty with Israel.

The woman referred to in this twelfth chapter of Revelation represents God's

elect nation of Israel.

\* According to God's promise to them in Isaiah 43:1-9, he will bring her safely through it all.

It is also interesting to note that God gave the people two days to prepare for his coming down on Mount Sinai.

He has also given us two days to prepare for his Second Coming, according to the way he counts time, as is recorded in II Peter 3:8.

Verses 6-13 of that chapter describe what will take place at the close of the Millennium, when God will establish the Everlasting Kingdom on the new earth and new heaven. This is also stated in Rev. 21:1.

We are already feeling the vibrations of that second shake-

up. Every area of our lives will be affected by it - the environment, the economy, the govern-ment, our society, our homes, and the trying of our faith.

We cannot alter the time of Gods' appointed judgment, but we can prepare for it by making sure that our souls are anchored in Christ, the "Rock of Ages."

It is encouraging to know that just as God called his servants, Moses and Aaron, to come up to him in the top of the mountain while the first shaking was going on, Jesus will also call his bride-elect to meet him in the air above while the second shaking is going on down here on earth. This event is called the Rapture.

Yes, God is going to shake the earth once more. To use an old country expression, he will shake it like a dog shaking a possum, or like a mighty wind shakes the faulty figs from the tree.

In light of these present vibrations, what will you be doing? Can you answer that like Jesus did when he said, "wist ye not that I must be about my Fathers' business?" (Luke 2:49b KJV).

Revelation.

# Weathersby to fill expanded NAMB post

Weathersby is among three men selected by the North American Mission Board (NAMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention to coordinate church planting among African Americans Hispanics, and in a new area to receive fulltime attention people living in multi-housing developments.

A Mississippi College (MC)

g r a d u a t e , Weathersby will serve as national African American specialist; Bobby Sena will serve as national Hispanic specialist; and Chris McNary will serve as national missionary for multi-housing.

The position of African American specialist was expanded with the calling of Weathersby to include working with recent immigrants representing 48 people groups of African descent now living in the United States.

The position previously was held by Robert Wilson, who recently became pastor of a congregation in Atlanta.

Since 1998 Weathersby has

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — been a NAMB missionary, serv-Former Mississippian Ken ing as Nehemiah Project director

and church planting professor at New Orleans Seminary.

Previously Weathersby was state evangelism director for the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Nashville; NAMB missionary in Tennessee; and pastor of churches Baton Rouge, La., and Cincinnati, Ohio.

In addition to



being an MC graduate, Weathersby holds degrees from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and Reformed Seminary in Jackson, where he received a doctor of ministry degree.

Sena transferred from national Hispanic field staff for NAMB's church planting group,

where he had served since 1997. 41,000 Southern Baptist churches He replaces Moises Rodriguez, who recently became pastor of a congregation in Fort Worth, Texas.

Previously, Sena served as a staff member and missionary for the former Home Mission Board (now NAMB) in Atlanta; staff member of the Baptist General Convention of Texas in Dallas; field representative for the American Bible Society; and pastor of churches in Atlanta and Dallas.

He is a graduate of Wayland Baptist University Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth.

McNary until recently served as African American missions leader

for the Baptist t a Convention of Michigan. Previously he served as pastor and church staff member Memphis and St. Louis.

He is a gradu-ate of Washington University, with a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in public policy.

Dennis Mitchell, director of the multiplication team of

NAMB's church planting group, said the new leadership emphasizes NAMB's commitment to placing strong strategists to help facilitate church multiplication movement among Southern Baptist churches in the United States, Canada, and U.S. territories.

Today, he said, only about four percent of the are involved in church planting.

"If we're going to reach America... we've got to help more churches catch a kingdom-expanding, church-planting vision. Selection of these three gifted, experienced church-planting practitioners will significantly enhance NAMB's ability to achieve this objective," Mitchell said.

The new role of a church planting national missionary for multi-housing reflects NAMB's expanded commitment to helping churches, associations and state conventions reach people living in apartment complexes, condominiums, manufactured housing and other types of multi-housing communities, Mitchell said.



MISSISSIPPI

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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That commitment goes beyond the Bible studies and other ministries that often remain extensions of existing churches, he added.

"With an estimated 90% of the 100 million people in the United States and Canada living in these communities not attending church on a regular

basis, we have no choice but to reach them...,

he pointed out.

"For years,
Southern Baptists have emphasized multi-housing ministries, but this is the first time we have had an individual specifically tasked at leading the efforts to facilitate church planting in multi-housing communities, Mitchell said.



McNary

Looking back

Hepzibah Church, Silver Creek, holds a special service for members of the church who are also National Guard members facing imminent mobilization as the standoff with Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein continues to worsen. They are given a New Testament and prayers are offered for their safety.

Meridian native Dorothy Pettit is honored for 22 years of service at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's Baptist Spanish Publishing House in El Paso, Texas. Mary Jo Stewart, another former missionary and a native of Poplarville, is promoted to director of church missions.

Stanley Smith, pastor of Mantee Church, Mantee, is seriously injured when fire completely destroys the church pastorium. Reports indicate the roof collapsed just moments after he and his wife escaped through a window. All vedding gifts belonging to the newly-married couple were lost in the blaze.

Product discounts available

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Microsoft computer software is now available at discounted rates to Southern Baptist churches, associations, and state conventions with 501(c)(3) federal tax-exempt status, according to Jim Carter, vice president of the finance and business services division at LifeWay Christian

Weathersby

Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville.

Also, he said, ministries such as children's homes and disaster relief units are eligible to participate. Healthcare organizations and private foundations are not eligible.

Through the new Microsoft Charity Open Licensing Plan, he said Microsoft Office 2000 is available for \$43.12 compared to a list price of \$449. Frontpage 2000, which lists for \$239, costs \$37.30, and Publisher, \$125 list price, costs \$27.21. Documentation and media kits are sold separately, also at discounted rates. The initial order from any new customer is 10. counted rates. The initial order from any new customer is 10

units, but subsequent orders can be placed for single units.

Carter said interested persons may contact ASAP Software by calling Andrew Zaehler at (800) 361-8939 or e-mailing him at azaehler@asap.com. A list of other authorized providers is available on the Internet at www.microsoft.com/enterprise/licens-

able on the Internet at www.microsoft.com/enterprise/licensing. In addition to Microsoft software, purchasing agreements are available to all Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) organizations on computers, office supplies, and relocation services.

The agreement for computer hardware and peripherals is with Dell Computer. Purchases can be made in one of two ways. By Internet, a dedicated website for SBC entities is available at www.dell.com/premier. Interested persons may visit the site and set up a new password using the account code: Southern Baptist and access key: city148. By phone, call Dell's toll-free number, (888) 806-3355, and identify yourself as a Southern Baptist entity. Boise Cascade Office Products offers office supplies through local dealers. Orders may be placed by fax, phone, e-mail, or the Internet. Products will be delivered the next day. Call Pam Mayberry of Boise at 1-800-608-8389, ext. 5654, and express interest in participating under the Southern Baptist contract.

Mayflower relocation services are offered by Apex at a discount of 57% off the published tariff rates on the moving of household goods. A 40% discount is provided for storage. Call Janet Jones or Nancy Wyatt at (800) 766-1902 or visit Apex on the Internet at www.apexmoving.com/sbc.htm.

WARNING -"STUFF" IN THE ROAD

With the coming of the new year, all of us will be taking a turn to get on Highway 2001. None of us have ever been there before and none of us have headlights bright enough to see what it holds in the days ahead.

One thing of which I am fairly confident is that we will find stuff" in the road!

As I have traveled the roads of Mississippi over the past couple of years, I have encountered some "stuff" in the road.

I try to be a thoughtful and good driver. I work at staying within the limits of the law, obeying the road signs, especially those that guide me through construction areas.

I look out for the other guy and I watch for deer at night, but trying to stay alert and do the right thing does not always keep stuff" from getting in the road.

Over the past months I have had some driving encounters of the unusual kind. One day, driving down the highway in the Jackson area, I was behind a pickup loaded with construction material. The traffic was heavy and I kept my distance from the truck, but all of a sudden I noticed that a ladder in the pickup's bed rose up as though it was flying!

Now, what do you do? To my left was a wall that separated the north and south high-ways and to my right was a line of cars. I hit my brakes just as the ladder made its crash landing five or six feet in front of me. I hit the ladder, or the lad-

at., 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Ai

ss times must be comple

d to receive ESL certification or the North Americal dission Board. The instructor

Mission Board. The instructor will be Gwen Allen, international Mission Board, Argentina. The cost of \$25 includes materials, snacks, and lunch on Saturday. Registration deadline is Jan. 24. For additional information, call First Church, Amory, 662) 256-7131; or WMU Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 800) 748-1651 ext 319.

0) 748-1651 ext 319.



# Directif

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

der hit me, and smashed the front of my car. It was not the way I had planned my day.

The car was repaired and a few months later I was driving to a speaking engagement in the southern part of the state. I was travelling down Highway 49, in the parade of afternoon traffic, and was trying to watch everyone around me, including a huge but friendly looking dog trotting along the right side of the road.

Cars were zipping past him and I intended to do the same, but just as I got alongside him he darted out into the traffic, right in front of me! I literally had no options. The dog went to his eternal reward and my car went back

to the repair shop.

Months and months passed, actually over a year, and the road in front of me remained fairly clear of clutter until one Saturday morning. I was on my way to speak to the state convention of church media library workers.

It was a beautiful, calm Saturday morning as I drove up the interstate. In front of me were a couple of guys in a pickup truck pulling a trailer on the way to a weekend at deer camp. Loaded on their trailer was a four-wheeler. I cruised along, thinking about where they were headed and keeping an eye on their trailer load, when suddenly, like in slow motion, that four-wheeler started rolling off the back of the trailer. I saw it happening and hit my brakes. Alongside me was an 18-wheeler. He whipped by me and I pulled over to the right behind him and off the shoulder of the road as the four-wheeler came off onto the highway.

I was sure, for a split-second, that I had missed this "stuff" in the road — but, oh no, the fourwheeler hit the ground, took a right-hand turn and WHAM, right into my door! It then proceeded to flip on down the road behind me. Back to-the repair shop went my car.

The worse "stuff" that I encountered on the road, I hate to even tell you about. This time I was riding along, minding my own business, on the winding interstate through Jackson. In front of me there was a large truck, about the size of a dump truck. The traffic was moving along at a slow, even pace when something on the back gate of that truck came loose and the load splashed out all over the interstate.

Again, I hit the brakes, but since the "stuff" was all over the road, I was forced to drive straight through it.

The contents splashed up onto the hood of my car, the windshield, the top, the wheels, and the motor. The "stuff" coated most of my vehicle.

What was it? The truck was loaded with the parts of a chicken that you do not buy! The driver was carrying the load to the plant where they do whatever they do to those parts of a chicken. It did not damage my car, but I can assure you that I had driven only a few hundred yards when I realized something really bad and really smelly had happened.

No words can describe what my nose experienced that day, the day after, and the day after that!

So believe me when I say there will be unexpected things on Highway 2001. Hopefully there will be no ladders or fourwheelers, but probably some people will experience broken relationships, while others will encounter personal failures and or find dreams shattered and unfulfilled.

There will be losses and undesired gains. There will be circumstances beyond our control and people who, in spite of all of our hopes, will disappoint us.

So, what do you do? Thanks be unto God that he has provided for us a Savior who we can turn to, who we can trust and experience help, hope, and healing. We will need him and he will be there.

Happy New Year!

#### Seminary head to direct Billy Graham crusade

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — The last time Billy Graham held a major crusade in Louisville, Ky., he was a young 37-year-old evangelist with a simple message — Jesus saves.

Nearly four decades later, his message of salvation through Christ hasn't changed.

The 82-year-old Graham has accepted an invitation to hold a crusade in Louisville June 21-24, 2001, in Papa John's Cardinal Stadium — 45 years after he last held a major crusade in the city. Graham's last full-scale crusade in Louisville, held in 1956, lasted four weeks. He also had a one-day crusade in 1964.

R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Seminary, will serve as chairman of the Louisville crusade's executive

Graham's visit to Louisville is special for Southern Seminary, because it has a school and professorship named for the evangelist. The Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism, and Church Growth prepares ministers for evangelism and missions work.

One of the school's professors, Timothy Beougher, is the Billy Graham Professor of Evangelism and Church Growth.

A formal announcement of the Louisville crusade will take place Jan. 16, when area pastors will come together to begin planning for the four-day cru-sade. The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association will announce in the ensuring weeks and months the speakers and recording artists who will participate in the crusade.

Among area pastors, Mohler said, "There has been a tremendous sense of excitement. Everyone has responded with incredible affirmation and excitement.

There are few events that can come to a city that will have the kind of significance and profile as a Billy Graham crusade. There will be some persons who will measure its impact in terms-of a financial impact. Others [will measure it] by the publicity that comes. The main impact is going to be spiritual. We look forward with

expectation to what God is going to do during those very critical days."

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Matt and Shae Williams, missionaries, spoke to New Hope Church, Foxworth, on their mission work. The church had a "March for Missions" in the morning worship service on Dec. 10 to reach its goal of \$4,500 for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. A total of \$6,489.84 was received.

"How to Save Your Marriage Before it Starts," African American Marriage Enrichment Seminar, will be held Jan. 19 and 20 at Calvary Church, Starkville. For additional information, call Bill Duncan, associational missions director, at (662) 328-6802.

The Perry Lunceford class is the new name for the men's Sunday School class at Poplar Flat Church, Louisville. Lunceford served as a Sunday School teacher for over 35 years. He died in 1994 during a worship service at Poplar Flat Church. His last words to his Sunday School class that morning were "men live this day as if it were your last day.'

Singles Bible Study at Broadmoor Church, Madison, will be held each Thursday at 7 p.m. from Jan. 11-Feb. 15 with drama, song and praise, and top-ics from Sunday cartoons. The study is hosted by Discipleship & Family Ministry Department and Broadmoor Church. For additional information, call Corine Frizzell at (601) 898-4947.

Starkville DiscipleNow Conference 2001 with the theme "All Things New" is scheduled for Jan. 12-14. The conference will involve, for the tenth year, several churches in the Starkville area. Watermark's husband and wife team of Nathan and Christy Nockels will be leading in praise and worship each session. Stuart Hall, founder of Dash Student Leadership in Atlanta, will be the speaker for the weekend. For additional information, call Tom Daniel at (662) 323-5633.



Atwood, Stanfill, Meeks, Scott, and Walker

Faith Church, Oxford, was constituted on Oct. 15. Over the past two years as a mission the church received 91 additions with 14 of these members by baptism. The mission was under First Church, Oxford, as the parent church. Pictured (from left) are Tom Atwood, pastor of First Church; Don Stanfill, executive director of missions, Lafayette/Marshall Association; Jon Meeks, first interim pastor, Faith Church; Harvey Scott, Calvary Church, Holly Springs, who delivered the first sermon at Faith Church; and Gerald H. Walker, pastor of Faith Church.

The Women on Missions

(WOM) of Stonewall Church, Clarke Association, increased in number this year. They have also started Young Women on Missions, GAs, Mission Friends, and Brotherhood. Jenifer Martin from the already existing Acteens has been chosen as a state Acteens panelist. The church met its Margaret Lackey State goal for the first time. The goal for Lottie Moon Christman Offician in \$2,000 Christmas Offering is \$3,000. Pictured (from left) are Thelma Chancellor, secretary of WOM, who quilted the world map wall hanging; and Nina Rigdon, Woman Nina Rigdon, Woman Missionary Union and WOM director.



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

- 1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
- 2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
- 3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.
  (I believe in Jesus.)
- 4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



Woman Missionary Union of Star Church, Rankin Association, collected and delivered over 200 boxes of clothing, shoes, etc., to the American-Ukrainian Evangelical Fellowship (AUEF) in Franklinton, La., for shipment to the seminary in Odessa, Ukraine. For information on AUEF, contact Gene Richards at (504) 839-4703.

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### BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

## Mt. Zion Church to host drama

Mt. Zion Church, Brookhaven, will host a presentation of Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames, at 6:30 p.m. on January 14 and 7 p.m. on January 15-16. Admission is free; nursery and children's ministry will be provided. For more information, contact the church at (601) 833-8018.

Revival date

Parkway, Clinton: midwinter revival: Jan. 5 and 6, 7 p.m.; and Jan. 7, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Joel Gregory, Fort Worth, Texas, evangelist; Ken Anderson, pastor.

BancorpSouth and William Carey College will present Echoes of Excellence, a gala featuring Carey alumni, on Jan. 26 at 8 p.m. Echoes of Excellence will celebrate 40 years of theatre under the direction of professor and chair Obra Quave. Under the direction of associate professor of theatre and Cary alumnae Shannon Roberts, several outstanding alumni enter-tainers are scheduled to perform including Philip Fortenberry, Keith Thompson, Jay Rogers, Jonathan Pope Evans, Canady Vance, and Don Frazure, Tickets for Echoes will go on sale Jan. 8 in the alumni office. Admission is \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. Donors contributing at the \$100 level and above will be entertained at a reception prior to the gala and will have special seating and parking. For more information, contact the alumni office at (601) 582-6107.

The Office of Continuing Education at Mississippi College (MC) is offering a course to assist individuals who are preparing to take the April 21 Medical College Admission Test (MCAT). The course which offers 22 sessions, each with three instructional hours of review, is scheduled to begin Jan. 20 and conclude on April 14. Mississippi College science professors will conduct lectures each in their area of expertise. Each lecturer will give three hours of instruction covering very essential areas and pointing out other important topics for review. The review course schedule is as follows: Saturdays 9 a.m.-12 noon for the morning session and 1-4 p.m. for the afternoon sessions on Jan. 20, 27; Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24; March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; and April 7. The review culminates with a full-length practice MCAT test on April 14. The practice test is scheduled 8 a.m.-4 p.m. one week prior to the nationally scheduled April 21 test date. The review cost is \$235 for MC students and \$275 for all others. Pre-registration is required and space will be limited. For more information, call Ken Gilliam at (601) 925-3263.

Mississippi College Office of Continuing Education will be offering Instant Piano for Hopelessly Busy People on Jan. 23, from 6-9 p.m. The course teaches chords, not notes. Topics to be covered include: how chords work in music; musicians' short cuts; how to "speed read" sheet music; how to substitute for 12,000 complex chords; how to handle different keys and time signatures; simple techniques of "counting"; and how to derive all major, minor, and seventh chords. The seminar will be led by David Haynes. The registration fee is \$49. There is an additional materials fee of \$20 for a spiralbound workbook and 60minute practice cassette. Preregistration is required by Jan. 18. For more information, call the Office of Continuing Education at (601) 925-3264 or e-mail at continuing-ed@mc.edu.

Mississippi College Office of Continuing Education will be offering International Business Etiquette, a one-day noncredit class, on Jan. 27 from 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. on the Mississippi College campus. This course will include a reference work-book as well as a 7-course tutorial dinner. The morning session will teach the non-technical strategies and tactics to compete in an economy that demands mental flexibility and alertness. The afternoon session will teach dining skills. The seminar will be conducted by Etiquette & Protocol Associates. Instructors Ricki R. Garrett and Susan R. Puckett, principals of Etiquette & Protocol Associates, are both graduates of the Washington School of Protocol in Washington, D.C. The registration fee is \$110. Pre-registration is required by Jan. 22. For more information, call the Office of Continuing Education at (601) 925-3264 or e-mail at continuing-ed@mc.edu.

#### Names in the News



Megehee and The Hendersons

Unity Church, Picayune, held deacon ordination service



Dobbs, J. Young, S. Young, and White

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for Brandon Henderson on Nov. 19. Pictured (from left) are Kent W. Megehee, pastor; Kerry and Brandon Henderson.

H o p e
C h u r c h ,
Philadelphia,
licensed James
H. "Jim" Young,
III, a junior at
Mississippi
College, to the
ministry on Oct.

15. Young serves as minister of music at Parkhill Church, Jackson. He is the son of Sarah W. Young and the late James H. Young, Jr. Pictured (from left) are Eugene Dobbs, interim pastor, Hope Church; Jim Young; Sarah W. Young, minister of children and youth, Hope Church; and Gary A. White, pastor of Parkhill Church.

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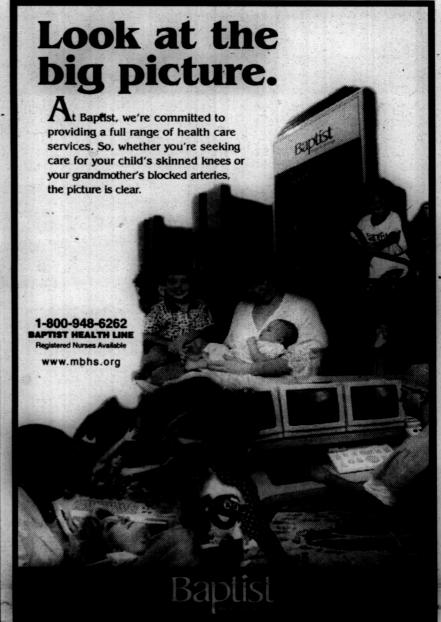
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#### Staff Changes

H. Cliff Davis, retired home missionary and state convention staff member, has been called as interim pastor of Clifton Church, Forest, effective Jan 1.

Wheeler Grove Church, Alcorn Association, has called John Fulper as youth minister, effective Nov. 13. Fulper is currently a student at Blue Mountain College.



## FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

New beginning Luke 1:5-9, 11-17, 57-60

By Sharon Neff

How do you measure maturity? Lots of people think maturity can be measured in the number of years you've lived, but that's not necessarily so.

My husband and I attended his 25-year, high school reunion a few years ago and the festivities included a dinner cruise on a river. We were enjoying the dinner, the view, and reminiscing with friends when some of the guys began gleefully throwing rolls across the room, proving that being middle-aged does not guarantee maturity.

On the other hand, our 19year-old college sophomore daughter was in a quandary recently about her courses for the spring semester.

If she committed to a particular major she was considering, she had to immediately begin the rigorous advanced required courses and was probably facing several years of post-graduate study.

I'm too young to have to make such important decisions about the rest of my life," she lamented. To me, that was a mark of maturity on her part.

Maturity does not automatically come as you pass through stages of life. Having a family does not always con-stitute having maturity; nor does maturity equal being able to do what you want without the constraints of parents or authority figures.

In our fun-loving, youth-worshipping culture, maturity may be seen as becoming staid, dull, and unadventurous with the result that many people



don't want to be mature. Perhaps a better question to ask concerns measuring spiri-tual maturity. Am I growing toward a maturity that pleases God? We have very few verses in the Bible that tell us about Jesus as he grew and matured, yet they can give us a pattern for our own journey

toward true maturity. Luke 2:40 says that "he was filled with wisdom" and that's a good place to start for spiritual maturity. Who are

the wise people today?

Pundits on television, radio, and in print would have us believe that they are truly wise, and maybe they are in the wisdom of the world. However, Jesus was filled with his Father's wisdom and that's the wisdom we should seek as Christians.

Growing in wisdom involves asking God for wisdom, paying attention to what he is teaching us, and spending time in his Word. Sitting at the feet of wise,

when you want to alternately hug your child because they are safe, and then smack them because of the worry they have caused. The big picture in this incident is that Jesus

> affairs in his Father's house. How concerned are you about the things that concern God? Is your life full of worry and concern about things that have no eternal significance? On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest priority, how

would you rate spiritual mat-ters as a priority in your life? The final step toward true maturity involves fulfilling responsibilities and here we

mature believers and soaking

up their wisdom can also help

us grow in wisdom. Seeking

and using godly wisdom is a good first step toward maturity. The next step involves being focused on God's con-

cerns. As a mother, I easily

focus on Mary and Joseph's anxiety about Jesus when they

realize that he is not with them

or any in their group as they

was tuned in to his Father's

I have had those moments

travel back from Jerusalem.

find the balance between the earthly and the heavenly.

Luke says that Jesus was obedient to his parents when they returned to Nazareth (v. 51). He was still focused on his Father's concerns, but also fulfilled his responsibility to obey Mary and Joseph.

A mature or maturing Christian will work toward finding the balance between fulfilling earthly responsibilities and being involved in spiritual matters.

A man who spends all of his time ministering to the spiritual needs of others and never finds time for his own family may not be truly mature.

A woman who spends so much time witnessing at work that she neglects her job duties is not maturing properly. Yet neither is the person who fulfills their earthly responsibilities well and never gives a thought to spiritual matters.

So, how do you measure maturity? Are you becoming a mature follower of Christ?

Neff is a member of First Church, Greenville.

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Consistent witnessing Acts 16:9-15, 25-33

By Lee Yancey

Following the riot in Ephesus, Paul called the disciples together and said goodbye to them. He encouraged many Christians there and in Macedonia as he passed through on his way to Greece.

After three months in Greece he learned of a plot against him which caused him to change his plans. He had intended to sail to Syria on his way to Jerusalem, but decided to go

back through Macedonia.

Later, in Troas, Paul preached until midnight. A young man named Eutychus fell asleep during the sermon and fell to his death from a third story window. Paul ran

downstairs and threw himself on the young man and brought him back to life.

Exemplary character (Acts 20:17-19). Paul asked the Ephesian leaders to meet him at Miletus rather than in Ephesus because he was in a hurry to reach Jerusalem. He wanted to arrive by the day of Pentecost if possible. Paul reminded the Ephesian elders of the humility and persever-ance with which he had served the Lord.

Threats by the Jews had kept Paul on edge the entire time he had been in Ephesus and through it all he had set an example of perseverance for the new believers. In our mod-

ern world, believers continue to set a Christian example for others by serving the Lord with humility and persever-

Exemplary witness (Acts 20:20-21). Jews and Greeks alike were equally given an opportunity to respond to Christ by

Paul's preaching. He pro-claimed the gospel privately in different homes as well as speaking publicly to large gatherings. He made a point to remind the elders that he had not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to

Because of Paul's bold commitment to confront every issue, we can understand the importance of not sugarcoating the gospel and presenting only the issues with which we are comfortable. We must be bold like Paul and speak out against the sin in our society regardless of the consequences to us.

Exemplary commitment (Acts 20:22-24). Although Paul knew he would face an angry group of Jews in Jerusalem, he was sure that God was directing him to go there. In fact, in every city that Paul preached, the Holy Spirit warned him that prison and hardships awaited him.

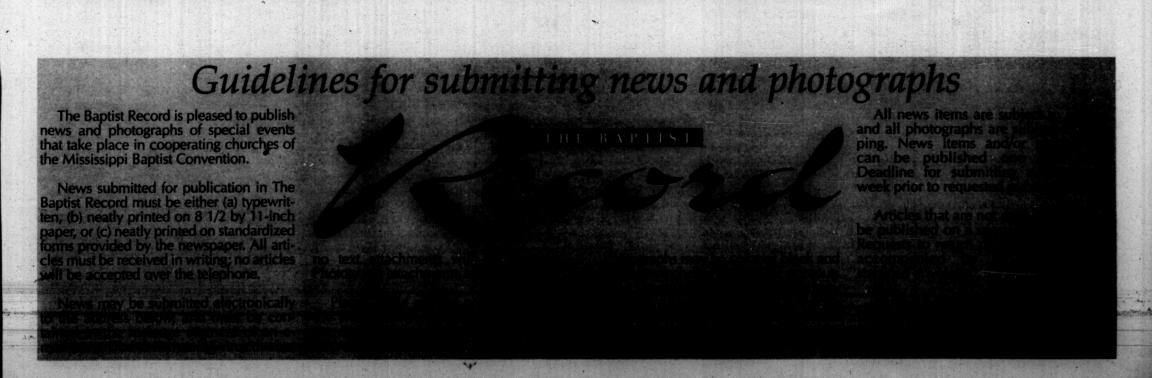
Paul was a man of great vision. He knew that heaven was his final destination, not prison. He was convinced that the One who had called him would be faithful to accomplish the purposes for which he was sent. Paul considered his life as nothing to himself; selflessly, he only wanted to finish the path that God had placed in front of

When God directs your steps, you will find the finish line. Believers can set a Christian example for others by committing to achieve God's purposes for their lives.

**Exemplary generosity (Acts** 20:33-35). Apparently, greed was a problem among some church leaders in Asia Minor. Paul went to great lengths to defend his own work ethic and the fact that he had not relied on the people whom he was teaching for support. He quoted a sentence from the Lord lesus which said "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

That sentence is not found in any of the four gospels but John 21:25 reminds us that not everything that Jesus said was recorded. In being a giver by example, Paul reminded the Ephesian elders that he had worked to supply his own needs and the needs of others. Believers can set a Christian example for others by being good stewards of their own possessions and by sharing with people in need.

Yancey is consultant for the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission.



## Scouts under pressure at Mich. school

PLYMOUTH, Mich. (BP) — A teacher's union opposed to the Boy Scouts policies caused a stir in a Southeast Michigan community when it told the school board it opposed the Scouts' use of school facilities.

Specifically, the union asked the board to review its anti-discrimination policy, which the union feels has a clause that should ban the Boy Scouts.

"I believed their policy was in direct conflict with the Boy Scouts of America's national policy," Chuck Portelli, president of the Plymouth-Canton Education Association, told CNSNews.com.

The board took no formal action on the union's motion, which Portelli said he did not ask the board to do. The union isn't planning any other action against the district board at this time, Portelli said.

"What we are seeing across the country is the liberal education groups and some of the schools welcoming in the homosexual student groups, even as they try to kick out the Boy Scouts," said Peter LaBarbera, director of the Americans For Truth Project, a Washington watchdog group on the gay movement.

#### Bibliocipher By Charles Marx copyright 1999

NATHTPVHT SHT GOHETW MENA AED GJ GSKNELD ECNV WTSNA; NASN YEFT SL XAHELN MSL HSELTW OK PHVD GJ RYVHJ VP NAT PSNATH, LAVOYW MSYF EC CTM-CTLL VP YEPT.

**HVDSCL LEU: PVOH** 

Clue: P = F

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Six: Twenty-Seven.

# Students raise \$3.5 million for own missions

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Collegians give! For the 1999-2000 school year, college students from around the country donated \$3,417,705 to mission activities through their Baptist campus ministries (BCM).

The college students walked; they baked; they played racquetball; they made snow cones, along with many other activities to raise money.

They gave sacrificially and they had fun.

Bill Henry, director of LifeWay Christian Resources' National Collegiate Ministry department, said, "Three and a half million dollars is a lot of money! These college students work hard and make personal sacrifices to raise that kind of money. They are to be commended for that."

The state convention and local campus leadership is what gives the students the drive to raise money for missions, Henry said, noting that without the dedication and determination of the campus ministers, it would never all happen.

The money the students raise is sent to their state convention collegiate ministries offices and used to fund mission

campus ministry director at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, said one thing her students do to raise money is to pledge a certain amount, then give sacrificially to meet their goal.

Osborne said that while most of the students involved in BCM come from Baptist backgrounds, some of the students don't have any type of church background.

"We try to teach them about tithing and sacrificial giving," she said. "Just by giving up one soft drink a week they can give about \$21. We encourage each student to pledge \$100 for the year, and a lot do that."

When the BCM receives a list of all Tech students who list a "Baptist preference" on their student information cards, Osborne and her students send a letter to the students' parents telling them about the BCM project of making cookie cakes.

For a \$10 donation, the BCM students will make big choco-late chip cookies, decorate them, then deliver them to the student.

"The cookies may be sent for a birthday, during exam week, or just if the parents know the student is having a rough time," Osborne said

"It's a great way for us to reach out and get to know stus dents who may not be coming to our activities yet.

"It makes a great first impression. They are glad to see us coming with the cookie cake!" she said.

Scott Davis, campus minister with Baptist Student

Washington University in Pullman, BSU director Bob Harvey issued a personal challenge to the students to raise money for summer missions.



COOKIE CAKE— Louisiana Tech University students Amy Burns (left) and Brandi programs in their states, Book make a cookie cake to be delivered to a student on campus. Tech BSUers house. We ask each stuthe nation, and the world. raised thousands of dollars for summer missions through activities like making the dent to turn in 25 names Linda Osborne, Baptist cookies and by sacrificial giving. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)

> Union (BSU) collegiate ministries at the University of Missouri in Columbia, said the "Mizzou BSU" has ministry teams who visit churches, primarily in Missouri, doing music and drama, leading DiscipleNow weekends,

> and other ministry projects.
> "The churches will give a love offering. Then when the expenses are covered, we give half of any amount over the expenses to summer missions,' Davis said.

> This is a really great way to help the students develop some leadership skills, as well as serving as a great public relations tool and an awareness raiser."

> Students also volunteer to be ushers at the Mizzou Tigers home basketball games. They can volunteer to usher for four games and the Hearnes Center, where the Tigers play, will pay about \$100 to the BSU

> At Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, BSU director Charles Nored said food is a big fund-raiser.

> 'Churches from the area bring in home-cooked meals to the BSU each Wednesday for lunch. The students pay \$3 and all the money goes to summer missions," he said.

> Besides raising money, the lunch serves as an outreach tool, giving the BSU students an easy way to invite friends to go to the BSU with them.

On his 60th birthday, Harvey reserved a local racquetball court and challenged students to play him for a 5-point, 10minuté game.

If Harvey won, the student paid him \$25. If the student won, Harvey had to shell out the \$25. At the end, all the money raised, about \$700, went to missions.

Arliss Dickerson, BSU director at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, said tradition plays a big role in their fundraising.

"For more than 20 years our students have had a Walk-a-Thon to raise money for missions," Dickerson said.

"Usually anywhere from 65 to 85 students walk 10 miles. They raise money by getting people to pledge an amount. The [BSU] committees set goals on how much money they will raise through the Walk-a-Thon.

"Then the committee whose people raise the most money get a pizza party."

Dickerson said the Walk-a-Thon raises about \$7,000, involving the community as well as the students.

"I've even had families from the churches call and tell me, 'No one has called me about the Walk-a-Thon yet.' So I hook them up with one of the students,"he said.

H.K. Kingkade, Baptist Student Union director at the

University of Kentucky (UK) in Lexington, said the biggest moneymakers his students do

are two date auctions. In the fall, the guys put together a date. Then the girls

bid on the date, hot knowing which guy has arranged it," he said. Kingkade said they

plan either a double date or a group date. In the spring, the girls arrange the date and the guys bid. Last year the UK BSU

raised about \$2,700 for missions with this project.

The parents of one of the BSU students allow the students to operate the snow cone concession during the Riverfest celebration in nearby Cincinnati, earning about

"He lets us run it for him. It's an all-day job, but the students have fun. Then, he just gives us the money for missions," Kingkade said.

Charles Lillard, Baptist Student Union director at the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) in Edmond, said one of the annual money-raising projects at the BSU at UCO is a Work-a-Thon. "We decide on a work

project. Last year it was a Habitat for Humanity

and addresses of people they know who might be willing to make a donation for the work project.

"They usually just go through their home church directories. Then they turn in the names and addresses to a committee that writes a person-alized letter asking for dona-tions," Lillard said.

"We call attention to mis-

sions by doing missions," said Lillard, whose group raised \$13,000 last year.

At Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, Texas, the BSU raised almost \$9,000 just from sacrificial giv-

ing by students.
Director Kyle Klemcke said, "What we try to do here is to reorient the students' thinking about their lifestyle toward giving. We try to get them to think specifically about how they use their money.

"We do make it a point to have some fun fund-raisers too," Klemcke said.

In the fall the BSU sponsors a four-person scramble golf tournament.

"Local businesses join with us and donate prizes," he said. "The teams pay an entry fee that goes to missions. About half the players are from the community and the other half are students."

Klemcke noted, "Part of the education we want the students to get in college is to establish a lifestyle of giving."